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ABSTRACT

A final report on the development and operation of a research training institute by Virginia State University in Petersburg is presented. Objectives of the federally-funded Research, Development, Dissemination, and Evaluation Center at the university include: to provide opportunities for women and minorities at the university to develop and/or refine their skills to conduct research that will improve the quality of education; to assist women and minorities in gaining a variety of professional experiences through mentor relationships; to increase the research, development, and publication activities of women and minorities at the university through seminars, professional study, and workshops; to provide a cadre of women and minorities with new knowledge and skills to provide technical assistance to others at Virginia State University, other historically black institutions in Virginia, and nearby junior colleges; and to increase the opportunities for women and minorities to assume administrative and leadership positions that require research skills and abilities. It is noted that inservice training for faculty included such topics as research presentations and microcomputers. Information is included on the annual grant budgets. (SW)

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Final Report for the

Interdisciplinary Center
for
Research, Development, Dissemination
Evaluation of Women and Minorities

HE 017 374

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Submitted by

Dr. Margaret G. Dabney
Dean, School of Education

January 1983

I. Background and Introduction

The National Institute of Education (NIE) operates under Statutory authority given in section 405 of the General Education Provisions Act as amended (20 U.S.C. 1221C). NIE is directed to "conduct educational research; collect and disseminate the findings of educational research; train individuals in educational research," and to "assist and foster such research, collection, dissemination, or training. . ." This program supports numerous projects whose primary target populations include minority persons and women who seek advanced study and research opportunities that permit full use of their expertise and capabilities in educational research.

A. Authority for Administrative Reviews

> The notification of Grant Award states: This notification of Grant Award is issued subject to the NIE General Regulations, Federal Register, Sub-chapter A, Chapter XIV, and as referenced by 45 code of Federal Regulations, Part 74.
>
> The following documents are incorporated into and made a part of this Grant Award:
>
> 1. The Grantee's Proposal
> 2. Special Provisions
> 3. Grant Payment and Report Requirements
> 4. Cost sharing: Grantee has agreed to 21.99% of the total cost

The Government project officer during the initial grant year was Gwendolyn C. Baker. In 1980 Claiborne Richardson became the Project Officer for the remainder of the grant award period (May 1982). Grant Authority P. L. 92-318; Appropriation Number 7591296; Object 41.41; and CAN B007251.

Pursuant to the administrative scope of the work and/or special conditions, Virginia State University designed a format for quarterly

reports which was described in the August 1, 1979 progress report under the heading Procedures for Collecting, Analyzing, and Reporting Project Progress.

The following report reflects the entire three--year program of activities from May 1979 to June 1982.

B. Purposes

Virginia State University received an institutional grant designed to provide opportunities "for individuals to engage in advanced study and research on a wide range of problems of major significance in the field of education. Also, the institutional grant was to "demonstrate how changes that enhance participation of minority persons and women can become an ongoing part of the applicant institution."

C. Overview of Project and Training Activities

The Virginia State University faculty received a research grant from the National Institute of Education for a Research Training Institute in the spring of 1979. This grant was funded under the Experimental Program for Opportinities in Advanced Study and Research in Education. The central purpose of this project was to:

> "strengthen the quality, relevance, and credibility of educational research through greater inclusion of the contributions and perspectives of women and members of minority groups that historically have been under-represented in this field. . . A priority objective of the program was to assist well-qualified minority persons and women to participate at an advanced level of educational research and related work."

The Minorities and Women Research Project at Virginia State University initially was funded for $45,000. At the close of the first project year, a continuation proposal was successfully submitted. Consequently, Virginia State University received another

forty five thousand dollars ($45,000) toward the continuation of the Minorities and Women Research Project for a second year. Identically, at the close of the second project year, Virginia State University applied and received another continuation grant for a third and final project year which closed in May, 1982.

The one hundred thirty-five thousand dollars ($135,000) awarded to Virginia State University was used for an intensive research training institute in May, 1979, a fall research seminar in October, and a closing winter research symposium in March 1980. Participants (Research Fellows) were introduced to the most current research techniques as reflected in the agenda programs.

Similarly, the second year (1980-81) funds were utilized for the development of renewal skills in research and the introduction to new approaches in statistical analysis/computer programming, inquiry skills and research proposal development through three training seminars. Furthermore, the third year funds approached the training activities through a mini-series of seven one-day workshops.

D. Meeting the Program Objectives

The Research, Development, Dissemination and Evaluation Center at Virginia State University was designed to:

1. provide opportunities for women and minorities throughout the University to develop and/or refine their skills to conduct research which will improve the quality of education of students at Virginia State University and pupils in surrounding schools.

2. assist women and minorities in gaining a variety of professional experiences through mentor relationships.

3. increase the research, development and publication activities of women and minorities at Virginia State University through seminars, professional study and workshops.

4. provide a cadre of women and minorities at Virginia State University with new knowledge and skills which will enable them to provide technical assistance to others at Virginia State University, historically black institutions in Virginia, and junior colleges within close proximity.

5. increase the opportunities for women and minorities to assume administrative and leadership positions which require research skills and abilities.

6. establish a research, development, dissemination and evaluation thrust as a major component at Virginia State University (RDD&E).

In order to realize the above objectives, faculty members from various departments and schools at Virginia State University identified a number of educational problems for their research topic activities. The specific activities were identified in mini-research profiles which were a part of their application requirements for the Minority's Women's Project. These mini-proposals were addressed to: (1) educational problems of minority students attending institutions of higher education with open door policies; (2) recurring academic and social problems of low-income and minority youth in urban schools; (3) declining academic qualifications in language and quantitative areas; (4) limited appreciation of the humanities of minority students from the inner cities and small rural communities; (5) developing and refining the skills of women and minorities at historically Black Institutions to engage in research, development, dissemination and evaluation activities; and (6) concerns of teachers and parents in the improvement of the academic skills and attitudes of minority children and youth toward schooling and learning.

It was the position of the developers of the initial proposal for the Minorities and Women's Project that the talent, interest, capabilities and facilities which can support NIE objectives to

assist institutions to establish policies and practices which would enable small colleges, especially those with predominantly minority and/or female faculties, were present at Virginia State University.

Thus, the Minorities and Women's Project instituted at Virginia State University from 1979-1982 has demonstrated that the strategies proposed for the project were fulfilled to a great degree as reflected in the completed research accomplishments of the research fellows since 1979 to date. The chart reflects the increased participation of Minorities and Women in research activities and the number of such individuals in leadership positions.

II. Selection and Composition of Research Fellows

A. The Research Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Center for Research, Development, Dissemination, and Evaluation of Minorities and Women was funded at a much lower level than originally requested. However, the amended program allowed Virginia State University to extend an invitation to the entire faculty (pre and post-doctoral members) to renew research skills while being introduced to new approaches in statistical analysis, computer programming, inquiry skills and research proposal development.

Correspondence describing the NIE grant and request for interested faculty members to make formal application for participation was disseminated to all administrators and faculty members of the university.

Each year the selection criteria included first, the submission of mini-proposals; second, demonstration that research activities were designed to increase the research, development and publication of

minorities and women at Virginia State University; third, the fulfillment of requirements of the Virginia State University Faculty Research Institution; fourth, research projects designed to increase the research data on problems acute to minorities and women; fifth, research projects which focus on overcoming barriers to recognition of research contributions by minorities and women; and last of all, cross-representation of schools within the university complex.

B. Composition of Research Fellows

The 1979-80 Research Fellows included twenty-two faculty members at Virginia State University and three members of the Alabama A & M University faculty. The Fellows at Virginia State University reflected a cross-representation of interdisciplinary faculty members. Fellows included educators in the field of psychology, philosophy, educational research/evaluation, mathematics, literature, music, and other areas. Alabama A & M University Fellows included their Dean, School of Education, an Associate Professor of Secondary Education, and an Assistant Professor of Art Education.

The 1980-81 Research Fellows were comprised of seventeen Virginia State University faculty members and two Alabama A & M University faculty members.

The 1981-82 Research Fellows included sixteen members of the Virginia State University faculty. Similar to the previous years, a variety of disciplines and fellows were represented.

In each year of the Minorities and Women Project, there were research projects that included a team of fellows involved in a particular project.

III. Project Progress of 1979-1982

A. Data Collection

At the conclusion of each phase of the project, Research fellows recorded their activities on the form as shown in Appendix F. This form required a brief description of the objectives, activities, and outcome regarding individual research projects. The completed forms are on file in the Dean's Office, School of Education, Virginia State University.

B. Analyzing and Reporting Data

Analyses of activities reported by individual research fellows was conducted by the Project Consultant and/or Chief Investigator in order to compile the technical report requested by NIE. Progress Reports reflecting the Virginia State University Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Minorities and Women were submitted quarterly to the NIE Project Officer in triplicate as requested.

NIE GRANT #

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
Budget Numbers -------	536101	536102	536103
Salaries	3,140.00		
Wages	10,477.10	7,699.62	17,937.38
Student Wages	2,364.80	3,307.50	2,258.65
Subtotal	15,981.90	11,007.12	20,196.03
Travel	7,676.86	5,836.39	6,310.64
Equipment	7,848.28	1,399.85	3,729.18
Personnel Benefits	653.29	510.56	1,249.63
All Others	9,446.29	17,343.01	11,802.24
Subtotal	41,606.62	36,096.93	43,287.72
Indirect Costs	2,804.21	1,844.37	1,180.00
Total	44,410.83	37,941.30	44,467.72
Commitments	178.03	5,402.86	1,958.50
Total	44,588.86	43,344.16	46,426.22
Originally Budgeted	45,000.00	40,643.00	49,357.00
Balance	411.14	(2,701.16)	2,930.78

NIE GRANT #

Budget Relief - 1981-82

536103	Original Budget	Expenditure	Commitments	Balance
Wages	14,750.00	17,937.38		125.97
Student Wages	0	2,258.65		0
Fringe Benefits	1,986.00	1,211.28		-303.67
Consultant Service	5,700.00	4,136.00		0
Technical Services	1,200.00	595.47		75.89
Travel	2,840.00	6,310.64	1,256.00	0
Special Revenues	0	325.00		-325.00
Contractual Service	2,750.00	598.84	228.00	0
Supplies	1,951.00	4,635.93	474.50	596.88
Equipment	0	3,729.18		0
Cur Char & Obligations	1,000.00	449.35		396.65
Graduate Stipend	16,000.00	1,100.00		0
Indirect Costs	1,180.00			3,544.06
Total	49,357.00	43,287.72	1,958.50	4,110.78